

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
9 June 2005 (09.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/052175 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C12P 7/62, C08G 63/89, 63/90 // (C12P 7/62, C12R 1:05)

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/BR2004/000237

(22) International Filing Date:  
25 November 2004 (25.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
PI 0306230-9 28 November 2003 (28.11.2003) BR  
PI 0405622-1 19 November 2004 (19.11.2004) BR

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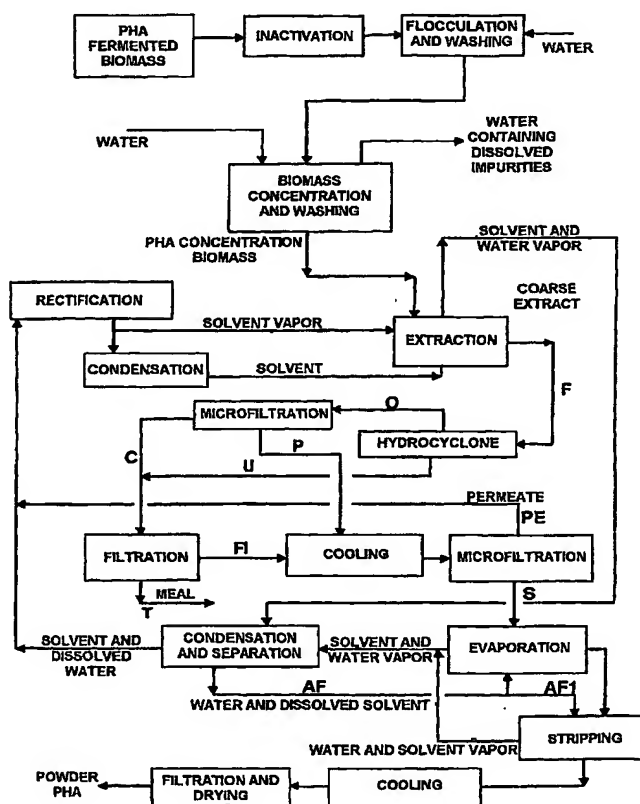
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR RECOVERING POLYHYDROXIALKANOATES ("PHAS") FROM CELLULAR BIOMASS



(57) Abstract: A process for recovering polyhydroxialkanoates (PHAs) from cellular biomass of bacteria, said biomass being obtained by fermentation and in the form of a cellular biomass slurry in aqueous suspension, comprising the steps of: submitting the slurry to operations of injection of PHA solvent, agitation and heating, in order to form a suspension comprising PHA solvent with the dissolved PHA, water and insoluble residues; recuperating the solvent enriched with PHA; rapidly cooling the solution of PHA solvent to precipitate the dissolved PHA; micro-filtrating the suspension of PHA precipitated in the solvent, in order to separate a paste concentrated with precipitated PHA; washing with water, heating and agitating the concentrated PHA paste, to promote evaporation of the solvent and to obtain a suspension containing PHA granules; agitating and shearing the PHA granules and depleting the residual solvent; and separating the purified PHA particles from the suspension.



AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

**(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available):** ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE,

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**  
30 June 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*